Recalling Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability and Target 7B: to significantly reduce loss of biodiversity,

Fully believing that the principles contained in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women are a great support for awareness campaigns, which will reach out to a variety of women and will encourage them to be partners and leaders in achieving Millennium Development Goal number 7,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration of the World Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro which recognized, on its Agenda 21, the crucial role that women play in environmental management, including the importance of awareness and knowledge in guiding women to be involved in the environmental sector,

Guided by the actions and initiatives of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action regarding rural and indigenous women as mentioned in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.1/Rev.2 from 2000,

Further recalling General Assembly Resolution A/RES/58/207 adopted in 2004 to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national and local policies to promote human resources development and further urging the adoption of cross-sector approaches to human resources development through the empowerment of women,

Noting further the measures described in resolution E/CN.6/2011/L.1, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2011, which details the inclusion of a “gender component” in all State reports concerning sustainable development,

Bearing in mind the Women’s Environment and Development Organization’s (WEDO) success in collaborating with United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations (IGO), and women’s organizations to provide environmentally sustainable training for women,

Recognizing the creation of the United Nations Environmental Programme’s Environmental Education and Training Unit, devoted to the education of sustainable practices at the local level,

Aware of the importance of including women in addressing biodiversity and the reduction of carbon emissions;

Assured that an increased knowledge among women pertaining to biodiversity and its applications in the promotion of sustainable development will positively affect women’s abilities to provide for their communities in a manner that is environmentally sustainable,
Recognizing that urban, as well as rural women may lack of environmental sustainability education, which jeopardizes both, the environment and sustainable economic growth for future generations, making it essential to widen up the availability of this knowledge,

Believing in the importance of including women who have informal jobs in the process of achieving a sustainable environment, and understanding that informal jobs are a reality which has to be seen as a tool to improve economic conditions of the population in developing countries,

Considering that many women in rural areas have informal jobs and may have limitations finding a formal job,

Acknowledging the importance of helping to increase the sense of social responsibility while they are at their workplace,

Reaffirming the roles of women as producers and caregivers in cultures and societies around the world,

Taking into account the model of the One Women Initiative held by the Azerbaijan Government, to enhance the outreach of professional Azerbaijani lawyers into rural communities,

The Commission on the Status of Women,

1) Calls upon Member States to develop national awareness campaigns to outreach women of all background in all areas by:
   a. Allowing women to understand the environment as well as the challenges and threats posed to it through local programming avenues;
   b. Highlighting their role in the environment and environmental sectors;
   c. Being aware of resources available to further serve in more participatory capacities as partners and leaders;
   d. Encouraging active involvement in procuring a sustainable environment and engaging in domestic activities and plans of action to achieve Millennium Development Goal 7;

2) Decides that awareness should be created through environmentally friendly educational campaigns and tools, to be sustained by financial and administrative support from local and national governments and IGOs (which are to be selected individually by each respective Member State), going into effect by 2014, such as:
   a. Social media that will be managed through the UN Women Communication Advisory in cooperation with local governments willing to support the awareness campaigns connecting the initiative with local governments while engaging rural and urban women;
      i. UN Women Communication Advisors will be responsible for evaluating and communicating success to participating Member States and CSW;
   b. Participatory forums will be organized for women working in the urban sector giving all communities access to the technological equipment necessary to maximize their learning of environmental initiatives as well as environmental professional activities to share their knowledge with women in the rural sector:
i. Special emphasis will be placed on the importance of protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and promoting the responsible usage of natural resources;

ii. The primary goal for these women is to understand that reaching sustainable development practices will benefit the whole community as well as future generations, giving women the opportunity to empower women to become responsible for the management of the natural resources that can be found in their communities;

iii. Women with informal jobs will be invited to participate at the informative campaigns and share their experiences as vital pillars of the awareness campaigns;

iv. Each forum will be responsible for monitoring and communicating success to participating Member States and CSW;

3) **Emphasizes** the creation of participatory forums directed by urban women, aimed to approach rural women as a means of education, so that:

a. The attention will be redirected towards the education of women in terms of:
   i. Legal rights;
   ii. Labor rights;
   iii. Social rights;
   iv. Environmental responsibilities;

b. Programs will be held focusing on educational forums directed towards legal affairs meant to empower women within their legal rights;

4) **Encourages** the aforementioned educational campaigns, along with their corresponding forums, to be extended to women in both formal jobs and informal jobs, so that:

a. “Formal jobs” shall be defined as those jobs that are based on contractual agreements;

b. “Informal jobs” shall be defined as jobs that are not based on contractual agreements, which may include but shall not be limited to a woman’s role as child-bearer, cook, housekeeper, etc.:

c. Forums will be created to promote sustainability within jobs belonging to the aforementioned identified sectors;

d. Emphasis will be placed on women with informal jobs, women leading families, and women belonging to indigenous communities;

5) **Endorses** the inclusion of a global urban social initiative as an extension of the aforementioned awareness campaign, to educate, train and network urban women on accessible everyday activities which can be undertaken to reduce their negative environmental impact, so that:

a. The focus areas of this initiative will be:
   i. Recycling and waste reduction;
   ii. Reducing carbon emissions;
   iii. Increasing resource efficiency;

b. The work of this initiative will be done by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environmental Programme in coordination through governments, non-governmental organizations, community organizations and private companies;
c. This initiative will be overseen by the CSW, to ensure the coordination of the parties involved, monitor the level of success of this initiative, and to re-evaluate the necessity and efficiency of the initiative to be submitted in a report to the CSW by 2020;

6) "Encourages all Member States to work in conjunction with the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) in order to implement alternative education and training programs within the community for indigenous women to pursue sustainability in their current field of study and local environment, so that:

a. Women will be educated on becoming more environmentally sustainable through training from regional environmental scientists provided through WEDO;

b. Women will instill sustainable environmental values in their children as well as encourage more environmentally resourceful purchases within the community;

c. Adult literacy will also be addressed in order for indigenous women to independently research current technologies on environmental sustainability;

7) "Calls upon each Member State to assess their crop output and the value of each crop to the sustainability and food supply of the State, so that:

a. “Crop output” shall be defined as the amount, both real and proportionate, of a given crop grown within a Member State;

b. This program shall serve as an extension of the aforementioned awareness campaign, to educate women with practical skills and knowledge of biodiversity and the sustainability of regional crop output;

c. Women may be able to familiarize themselves with the local crop output while participating in the research and analysis processes, as familiarity with local and regional crop output will:
   i. Allow women to grow the crops necessary to sustain their local communities;
   ii. Inspire environmental awareness among women, thereby empowering them to make environmentally-sustainable decisions as applicable in capacities such as crop selection and rotation;

d. Each participating Member State shall be solely responsible for the research and analysis of its respective crop output;

e. Each participating Member State shall issue a report to the Commission on the Status of Women which details information such as the structure of the research, the proportion of women in relation to men working on the research and analysis, and suggestions as to how to improve the efficiency and accuracy of each respective Member States’ program as it relates to the role of women in the research and analysis processes;

f. Women play an integral role in the research and assessment processes;

g. Women from both rural and urban communities will be selected to actively participate in the research and assessment processes;

h. Region-specific analyses are published and made accessible to Member States;

8) "Calls for the creation of a database to be a culmination of the data collected through the aforementioned assessments of crop outputs and values, given the following:

a. Information and data shall be released to the database at the discretion of each Member State;
b. Each Member State shall be solely responsible for all necessary oversight and verification of crop output values and analyses put forward for inclusion in the database;
c. The contents of the database shall serve as content for the awareness campaigns, allowing women to access information regarding the crop output and applicable measures of biodiversity in their local regions;
d. The database shall be accessible to all Member States;

9) *Strongly encourages* the inclusion of women in all decision-making processes at the local, central, and global levels, as related to environmental sustainability and the protection of biodiversity and the reduction of carbon emission.
Recalling A/RES/41/128, adopted by the General Assembly in 1986, The Declaration on the Right to Development, which promotes egalitarian practices and gender equality, as well as the other fundamental human rights, for the achievement of development in all Member States,

Recognizing Millennium Development Goal 7, ensuring environmental sustainability, which endorses principles of sustainable development, reducing biodiversity loss, and ensuring access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Emphasizing Millennium Development Goal target 7C aimed at providing sustainable access to sanitation and safe drinking water,

Taking into consideration the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which addresses that humans play a role in environmental sustainability as well as its degradation, and women in particular play a vital role in communities, especially concerning the promotion of environmental sustainability,

Taking into account A/RES/66/129, adopted by the General Assembly in 2012, Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas, which recognizes that women in rural areas have limited access to water, land, and resources, yet are critical agents in both the realm of poverty reduction and environmental sustainability,

Calling special attention to A/RES/66/129 clause 2, sub-clause g, which promotes access to safe drinking water, sanitation, safe cooking practices, and sustainable infrastructure to improve the health of rural women and children,

Referring to the Gender and Water Alliance, a coordination body established at the Second World Water Forum in 2000, which promotes the building of networks among grassroots organizations such as Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT in Uganda) and Centre for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) in order to provide safe, adequate water while also paying attention to gender issues, social justice, and human rights,

The Commission on the Status of Women,

1) Encourages the Gender and Water Alliance (hereafter referred to as the GWA) to establish cooperation between university students and women in rural communities in developing countries to promote water sanitation and accessibility with the goal of creating mutual benefits for both parties by:
   a) Supporting universities in both developed and developing countries in establishing voluntary, extracurricular student-run clubs with an interest in helping to provide accessibility to safe water resources to rural communities in developing countries by:
      i) Engaging in educational activities for the students and for the purpose of raising awareness in their own communities that will foster a better understanding of
water issues faced by women in rural communities, as water collection is predominantly a woman’s task in developing countries;

ii) Preparing students over a period of at least six months culturally, academically, physically, and psychologically to engage in voluntary development aid activities by the name of AQUAFEM, which will be introduced in clause 2, and aimed at helping developing countries achieve sustainability in the area of water management;

iii) Hosting fundraising events in their own communities to cover their own travel expenses and student organization costs, and additionally, contribute the surplus to the project AQUAFEM which students will travel to under the GWA to work on sustainable resources for women;

2) Encourages the development of two 3-year AQUAFEM pilot programmes in Ghana and Togo for the purpose of creating sustainable accessibility to safe water resources, which are to be comprised of three phases, and will be continuously supported by students, who remain at the project for a duration of 3 to 6 months throughout AQUAFEM’s 2-year duration:

a) The first phase of three months will be focused on the building of relationships and trust between the targeted rural communities in Ghana and Togo and the programme, by:

i) Asking the GWA to provide volunteers of the university program to be deployed to the targeted communities for three months in order to become valuable contributors in the practical tasks of everyday life of rural communities, i.e. water collection;

ii) Providing the targeted communities with short-term support regarding everyday needs through such things as solar cookers, chlorine tablets, disposable water filters, etc. to be funded by the institutions named in operative clause 4;

iii) At the completion of the first phase, students will return home to receive further training and evaluate the information gained from women in the community in regards to their needs in water management and sanitation in order to return the following year;

b) The second phase of 6-months duration will commence after phase one, in which trust has been established with the rural women by the volunteers with GWA, and be focused on educating them in basic water management techniques, as they are the primary suppliers of water for household purposes, by:

i) Providing them with expertise on the establishment and operation of rudimentary water collection and water storage systems, i.e. cisterns;

ii) Informing them on rudimentary technology and expertise concerning water filtration and purification, i.e. rudimentary filtering systems;

iii) At the completion of the second phase, students will return home to receive further training and prepare for the implementation of the infrastructure required by the women of the rural community in the following year

c) The third phase of 6 month duration focuses on the establishment of modern infrastructure and sustainable long-term water technologies, provided by donor states such as: Japan, Poland and the United Kingdom, based on the needs voiced from the women of the communities;
3) *Emphasizes* that in order for the positive effect of education and expertise transfer in the targeted communities to spread within the region, an inter-community exchange programme of rural women with neighboring settlements is to be established with the goal of exchanging experiences and best practices, and is to operate as a self-sustaining monitoring process to ensure to donor nations that their investments are being properly sustained in the rural communities, as well as to ensure that the innovations in water management continue to be operated successfully and sustainably in the AQUAFEM project communities;

4) *Proclaims* that the Japanese International Cooperation Initiative, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, and Polish Aid will contribute the monetary funds necessary to launch the project:

a) After the first year, all Member States involved will compile a report on the progress of the initial stages of this initiative to be presented to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the GWA;

b) Based on the success of the project communities in Ghana and Togo, AQUAFEM and the GWA will look to Member States, the CSW, and international bodies such as, but not limited to, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and UNWater to use the AQUAFEM pilot programme as a basis for similar initiatives to be implemented in rural communities worldwide.
Keeping in mind that Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Number 7 provides Member States with comprehensive targets and indicators to achieve global environmental sustainability,

Deeply conscious that every effort to successfully advance sustainable development needs to take women into account, as women, comprising over half of the world’s population, are a vital resource to promoting environmental sustainability if they are endorsed within their respective Member States to promote popular education for women on sustainable development, gender sensitive policy making, entrepreneurship, and land tenure reform initiatives,

Drawing attention to the initiative of National Action Plans in response to Security Council Resolution S/RES/1325 of 2000, which aims to set priorities and resources, initiate strategic actions, and determine responsibilities and timeframes on a national level in promoting gender equality,

Aware of the need to work in collaboration of UN organizations, such United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), in order to provide socially and economically to women,

Recognizing women are the primary water gatherers in many countries,

Further recognizing successful programs implemented in India, China, Uganda, and Ghana, which enable women, during their daily tasks, to help in achieving sustainable living,

Noting the success of Women’s Environment Development Organization (WEDO) in their special project, Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) as they garner support from different women’s organizations, IGO’s, and UN bodies to distribute funds from donor states,

Recalling the success of Agenda 21 and Rio +20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012, to incorporate women to aid in achieving environmental sustainability through programs such as the UN program, Gender Equality, UN Coherence, & You, 2011,

Bearing in mind existing programs empowering women should highlight the importance of integrating women into environmental sustainability,

The Committee of the Status of Women,

1) Calls upon Member States to enhance collaboration between United Nations agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Governments in order to empower women and to achieve MDG Number 7 to protect earth’s valuable resources;

2) Decides to implement the initiative Women Sustaining Themselves (WST), a global social initiative, in order to bolster existent programs for women in each Member State to help women to bring about their own equality, education, and integration into sustainable living patterns framed after existing programs which include but are not limited to Education for All; Agenda 21; Ban Ki-moon’s Education First; Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies; UNICEF School in a Box; UN-HABITAT;

3) Calls upon Member States to create and/or amend National Action Plans in the following ways:
a) Through the creation of policies aimed at young women ages 10-19 that encourages healthy lifestyle choices and the reduction of carbon footprints through the following actions:
   i. Encouraging women to conserve water by the usage of runoff water resources as opposed to freshwater sources,
   ii. Urging the use of alternate sources of transportation such as walking, biking, and the use of car pools when necessary in order to reduce the amount of carbon emissions;
   iii. Promoting energy saving techniques by avoiding cooking over open flames and adopting initiatives such as the United Nations Foundation Global Alliance for Clean Cooking Stoves (2010),

b) Through a collaboration with UNICEF under the condition that Member States will have full discretion over the specific policies and actions encompassing the National Action Plans which should include:
   i. Framework in place by the suggested completion of MDG 7 in the year 2015,
   ii. Knowledge based curriculum on current environmental issues and sustainability efforts within each Member State;

4) 

4) **Welcomes** funds from donor states, the United States of America, Kingdom of Belgium, and the People’s Republic of China and recommends Women’s Environment Development Organization (WEDO) to:
   a) Collaborate with Member States to provide financial support for women’s participation in these programs through women’s advocacy groups, IGOs, UN bodies, government Ministries, and congress women and men in order to fuel the initiative in the beginning to help it become self-sustaining;
   b) Serve as the link with donor states, like The United States of America, Kingdom of Belgium, and the People’s Republic of China, as how to allocate funds, how to evaluate existing programs and the necessities of such programs in Member States;

5) 

5) **Urges** Member States to increase the number of women in educational programs, within environmental sciences and law within 5 years in addition to Agenda 21:
   a) Through providing financial support for scholarships;
   b) Through gender sensitive training programs in order to reduce discrimination of women within such educational programs such as the UN program, Gender Equality, UN Coherence, & You (2011);

6) 

6) **Further recommends** that Member States within the CSW allow WST to observe and support their current education programs for women and bolster or include the following within their programs:
   a) Basic primary education for women, for those who lack this level;
   b) Education of business enhancement on finance opportunities in land and small business ownership for women in the follow categories:
      i) Advocating exchange programs for women on the basis of teaching popular sustainable development education in tenure law reform initiatives so that women, in respects of nation sovereignty, have qualifications for land ownership and inheritances for small business/entrepreneurship enhancement for their rural community;
      ii) Providing gender equality opportunities for women through advocacy workshops for the purpose of helping women in small business, farming and agricultural markets with the hope of expanding the workforce of women;
   c) Education of cooking, cleaning, and transporting water in a sustainable way, as well as education in technology and agriculture research in order for women to take advantage of their local, arable land;
   d) Education of local women to become teachers so the education itself is sustainable;
   e) These efforts will be monitored by governmental leaders in each respective Member State in accordance to annual reports, received by the United States of America, The Kingdom of Belgium, and The People’s Republic of China, provided to WST from the respective State.